

desire of the department to render every assistance in their power, provided funds were supplied to enable them to act. At his suggestion we drew up the heads for an estimate of the expense of the required work.

Viewing the great importance of speed in obtaining such particulars as might enable the works for house and street drainage to be carried on with safety, and in preventing unnecessary interruptions in the public works, we directed our attention to the particulars usually inserted in the Ordnance survey of 60 inches to the mile for towns, and we endeavoured to determine which of these particulars might be omitted for immediate purposes.

Having marked on a specimen sheet the particulars which we thought it absolutely necessary to obtain in the first instance, in addition to the triangulation, with the aid of the Board of Ordnance, we drew up a paper of inquiries with a view to ascertain the expense of the survey in separate stages, some of which might be delayed until the immediate requirements of the survey are completed, and others of which it might be found an eligible course to have completed, with the aid of the officers of the commission.

These heads of estimates have been transmitted by Lord Morpeth to the Master-General of the Ordnance; and, when they are returned, we shall be prepared to report further on the subject.

(Signed) H. T. DE LA BECHE.
E. CHADWICK.

December 16, 1847.

The clerk next read several statements on the subject of the accounts, and a letter from Alderman Mosgrove, as chairman of the late Tower Hamlets' Commission, setting forth that, as soon as a guarantee from responsibility was given as to the funds, and the disposal of the court-house in Great Alie-street, all accounts should be handed over to the commissioners.

A messenger from this commission attended; and, an order being made, the accounts were handed in, as were those from the Surrey and Kent, and Greenwich divisions.

It was also reported that the amount of funds at present in hand, of the combined divisions, amounted to 32,839l.

A report was presented from the committee of accounts, stating that considerable difficulty existed as to placing the accounts, both as regarded the Bank of England and any private bank; but a joint-stock bank company had expressed a desire to give them every facility, as soon as arrangements for the same were made.

It was then agreed that further time should be granted to the committee for the custody of the funds.

The surveyors, Messrs. Phillips and Roe, presented reports that a number of men had been employed in flushing and cleansing cesspools, particularly in Turnmill-street, and that this had been effected by the use of the ordinary fire-engines, the hose of which had been inserted in the place proposed to be discharged; and, by the use of Sir William Burnett's chloride of zinc, all odour arising therefrom had been completely destroyed.

In answer to questions by Mr. Chadwick, the surveyors stated that the relative expense of cleansing would be one-sixth of the old mode. From one cesspool alone they had removed 20 cubic yards of soil, and they believed they should be enabled to expedite the work so much more, that two men would be able to cleanse an ordinary cesspool in one hour.

Mr. Slaney—Then, by this means, shall you be enabled to cleanse the drains of houses, through narrow passages, at 500 yards distance, of all offensive matter, without inconvenience to the inhabitants?

The surveyors said it would be perfectly practicable.

Mr. Chadwick—Is it your opinion that cesspools can be done away with?

The surveyors said, that in the case of Turnmill street, where there were twenty-three houses in one small court, an efficient sewer could be formed at the cost of 2l. 2s. per house, with an annual charge of 3s. per house.

Mr. Slaney—Then, am I to understand that, according to your estimate, an efficient drainage and supply of water can be obtained at one-fifth that of the present system?

The surveyors said such would be the case

with a constant supply of water, and not, as at present, where water was not always supplied.

Lord Morpeth said, in reference to the amount of charges, it would be advisable to embody the subject in the new bill to be laid before Parliament.

Mr. R. L. Jones was of opinion that a *pro rata* principle should be adopted, and parties not be compelled to bear the expense of improvements where, perhaps, only a short interest existed.

The subject was then ordered to be brought forward at the next court.

Mr. Hertslet, the clerk, reported that the Chelsea, Hampstead, and other water companies, had each made offers of the most liberal description to supply the commission with abundant supplies of water, at cost price.

The Hon. Frederick Byng bore testimony to the willingness of the water companies to supply water almost gratuitously.

Mr. Slaney thought an answer should be returned to the water companies, acknowledging the liberal terms offered by them.

Lord Morpeth said he had no doubt the members of the committee would collect the feelings of the court, and transmit the same to the various companies.

At this stage of the business Lord Morpeth stated that, in consequence of engagements, he was unable to remain till the agenda had been gone through, and hoped some other member would be appointed to the chair.

It was then proposed, and unanimously agreed to, that Lord Ashley do take the chair for the remainder of the business.

The Hon. Frederick Byng drew the attention of the court to some of the worst courts and places he had seen lately—and those within 50 yards of the Sewers' Court in Greek street; he alluded particularly to Dudley-court and Barnett's-buildings, where, within three months, several houses had been pulled down, and small ones rebuilt, but no arrangement had been made for any drainage whatever. He therefore moved that, as no provision had been made for drainage, the clerk do serve notices on the parties, under the Act 10 & 11 Victoria, and do pursue a similar course whenever he may deem it necessary.

The surveyor said the place was in a most frightful condition, and that the premises were glebe property, belonging to the vicar of St. Giles's.

Mr. Slaney made a few remarks on the motion, which was put and carried unanimously.

The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted, as the mode of action of the new commission:—

"That the surveyors be directed to take immediate measures for the flushing and cleansing of the sewers, and, when practicable, of the cesspools, preferring, in the first instance, proceeding with the courts, alleys, and worst-conditioned streets and places chiefly occupied by the poorer classes.

That for this purpose the surveyors be authorised to obtain additional supplies of water from the water companies, and to engage any additional assistants and labourers requisite, till further orders. That they be empowered to act on the orders entered into in respect to cleansing works from the several other districts.

That a committee, consisting of the following commissioners, be authorised to aid the officers with information, and to communicate with local boards having charge of works of paving and cleansing, and invite their co-operation to proceed at the same time with works for surface-cleansing, viz:—

Hon. F. Byng,	Dr. Arnott,
Sir James Clark,	Mr. Bullar,
Mr. Chadwick,	Rev. W. Stone.
Mr. Leslie,	

That the surveyors be directed to forward such works now in progress as are of immediate and pressing necessity, and as will not require to be undone, and are not inconsistent with an amended system of sewers and drains worked by regulated supplies of water, and as may be safely proceeded with before the completion of a general survey.

That, in respect to works now in progress which are inconsistent with a system of sewers and drains acting by regulated supplies of water, or which may not safely be carried on without a survey, the surveyors are ordered to give directions for having them stopped, and openings of the roadway which interfere with

the public traffic immediately made good. That the surveyors now appointed be directed to make an immediate report on works for which contracts have been entered into.

That the surveyors consider forthwith as to the covering up of any open sewers or ditches which appear to be dangerous to the public health, and that they report thereon immediately.

That application be immediately made to her Majesty's Board of Ordnance to direct a survey for the district on the larger scale of the survey recently made of Liverpool, Manchester, and other towns in Lancashire and in Yorkshire.

That Sir Henry De la Beche and Mr. Chadwick be authorised to report respecting the insertion of such particulars in the survey as may best adapt it for the requirements of the public service; and that they, and Mr. Richard Lambert Jones, be deputed to invite the commissioners for the city of London to join in the application.

That Mr. Stable prepare a summary of the state of the accounts, of the contracts, liabilities, and state of the expenditure, the outstanding rates, income, and assets, for the early information of the commissioners.

That Mr. Hertslet prepare a collection of the bye-laws and orders in force in the several districts; and, with assistance, obtain a digest of the several local and general Acts which embody the law of sewers, for the information of the commissioners.

That a committee for general purposes be appointed, to whom it be referred specially to examine and report on the duties of the several officers and servants, and the present extent of public service requiring to be performed, and on the best means of providing for it, and for the keeping of the accounts and custody of the funds. That this committee be requested to meet from time to time on the progress of the business of the commission, and summon any extraordinary meeting of the court when occasion requires it.

That this committee consist of the following commissioners:—

Hon. F. Byng,	Mr. Bidwell,
Mr. Hume,	Mr. Broderip,
Mr. Chadwick,	Mr. Bullar.
Mr. Leslie,	

That the Committee for General Purposes be required to report as soon as possible what steps ought to be taken for opening the accounts of the commission with the Bank of England."

A great number of letters were read from different parties complaining of want of drainage, and the court then adjourned.

HEALTH OF TOWNS.

A NUMEROUS and influential anniversary meeting of the Health of Towns Association was held on Saturday last at the Hanover-square Rooms, the Marquis of Normandy in the chair, supported by a body of members of Parliament, and other noblemen and gentlemen. Deputations attended from Bradford, Derby, Liverpool, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Halifax, Stafford, Preston, Plymouth, East Retford, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and other important towns. Apologies for absence were received from Lord John Russell, the Duke of Buccleugh, Lord Morpeth, the Earl of Shelburne, the Bishop of Norwich, and a number of M.P.s and other supporters of sanitary reform.

The chairman opened the meeting by a speech in which the sincerity of his advocacy of the same good cause was very obvious. He urged the necessity of a prompt and vigorous support, although he believed that from the knowledge of its necessity which the public was at length acquiring, it would now stand upon its own merits. He did not mean to blame either the friends of this great cause, or the Government, who had already contributed both influentially and beneficially to this reform. A report full of sound, substantial, and admirable suggestions had been as vigorously acted upon by the Executive as it was wisely designed by the Legislature. He must regret, however, that at a time when this country—and this great metropolis—were in expectation of the visitation of cholera, it was still the fact that experience had been in vain acquired, information in vain collected, and improvements in vain suggested. The